

By: Raney

H.R. No. 648

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud citizens of Washington County are visiting the
2 State Capitol on February 24, 2015, to celebrate their rich
3 heritage and the contributions their county has made to the story of
4 Texas; and

5 WHEREAS, In the early 1820s, members of Stephen F. Austin's
6 Old Three Hundred began settling in the area of Washington County,
7 and they soon formed a community known as Washington-on-the-Brazos;
8 the town became a major center of activity during the Texas
9 Revolution, and it was the site of the Convention of 1836, where
10 delegates signed the Texas Declaration of Independence and drafted
11 a constitution for the new republic; that same year, Washington
12 County was formally created, and later, from 1842 to 1845,
13 Washington-on-the-Brazos served as the capital of the republic; and

14 WHEREAS, The region attracted substantial immigration and
15 developed quickly; included among the newcomers were Germans,
16 Czechs, and Poles, who began arriving in the mid-19th century;
17 residents had several colleges to choose from, including Baylor
18 University, which was established in Independence in 1846, and
19 Soule University, which eventually merged with other schools to
20 become Southwestern University; today, that early tradition of
21 higher education is carried on at Blinn College, founded in 1883, in
22 Brenham, the county seat; and

23 WHEREAS, Thanks to its natural beauty and prominent role in
24 early Texas history, Washington County is a popular tourist

1 destination; visitors can drive scenic country roads, enjoy the
2 recreation afforded by Lake Somerville, and step into the past at
3 museums in Brenham, Burton, Chappell Hill, and Independence;
4 moreover, the Star of the Republic Museum in
5 Washington-on-the-Brazos tells the story of the Texas Republic; and

6 WHEREAS, Other popular attractions include Blue Bell
7 Creameries, an eight-acre antique rose garden, the Downtown Brenham
8 historic district, four wineries, a microbrewery, and more than 40
9 bed and breakfast inns; in addition, the area can boast of such
10 well-known events as the Washington County Fair, which is the
11 oldest county fair in Texas, along with the Burton Cotton Gin
12 Festival, the Bluebonnet and Scarecrow Festivals in Chappell Hill,
13 and the Brenham Maifest; and

14 WHEREAS, This dynamic county is one of the Lone Star State's
15 great treasures, and it is indeed a pleasure to honor the residents
16 of Washington County as they look forward to a bright and promising
17 future; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
19 Legislature hereby recognize February 24, 2015, as Washington
20 County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting
21 delegation sincere best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable stay
22 in Austin.